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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 13, 2004

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-180)

TO: Sarah Branum, KEWL-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Hood River Fish Habitat – East Fork Irrigation District (Central Lateral Canal Upgrade)

Project No: 1998-021-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): *2.1 Maintain healthy riparian plant communities; 3.17 Sediment basins; 3.18 Sediment and water control basins; 4.1 Irrigation water management; 4.10 Water conveyance: pipeline; 4.17 Limit interwatershed diversions and returns; 4.22 Avoid excess irrigation flows; 4.25 Consolidate/replace irrigation diversion dams.*

Location: near Odeall, Hood River County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), in cooperation with the East Fork Irrigation District.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA and CTWSRO propose to fund a portion of a riparian habitat improvement project in the Hood River Valley near Odell, Oregon. The proposed project is in cooperation with the East Fork Irrigation District (EFID), which operates an irrigation diversion on the East Fork of the Hood River (tributary to the mainstem Hood River), approximately 20 miles upstream from the Columbia River. This is one of a number of habitat improvement projects propsed by CTWSRO and funded in part by BPA. This irrigation system upgrade project will take place over several years and will be achieved with through a variety of both public and private funds. The Hood River Watershed Group assists in seeking funding sources. Federal funds contributing to the project include BPA and the USDA Forest Service.

The proposed project is separated into three phases (Upper Phase, Middle Phase, and Lower Phase) that have the following elements:

- upgrade the Central Lateral Canal (Upper and Middle Phases) by installation of a closed pipe in the existing open canal;
- install a closed pipe where there is no existing open canal to connect the system end of the existing canal to the terminus of the project (Lower Phase). This new pipe would supply water to the lower end of the project that was served by conveyance of water via the Eastside Lateral;
- install a pipeline (inverse siphon) across Neal Creek;
- terminate conveyance of water via the Eastside Lateral to West Fork of Neal Creek (eliminating interbasin transfer of water to Neal Creek);
- remove Neal Creek irrigation diversion facilities and the obsolete rotary drum screen;

- install a spill overflow structure at the beginning of Highline Canal; and
- divert surge flows to Whiskey Creek or Odell Creek from the Highline Canal spill overflow structure rather than to Neal Creek.

The EFID water diversion on the East Fork Hood River is operated in accordance with a water right issued by the Oregon Water Resources Department that permits withdrawing up to 127 cubic feet per second (cfs). The diverted water is screened of silt and debris at a sand trap facility near Parkdale, Oregon. The cleaned water is then conveyed north for approximately 4.5 miles through the east side of the Hood River Valley via an open Main Canal to the Caldwell Flow Structure. Individual users divert approximately 15 cfs of water from this Main Canal.

The Main Canal divides into three laterals at the Caldwell Flow Structure. This is the beginning of the proposed project. The Highline Lateral supplies water to the Dukes Valley area; the Central Lateral supplies water to the central region of the District; and the Eastside Lateral supplies water to the lower north end of the valley by an interbasin transfer of water (42 cfs) to the West Fork Neal Creek. After flowing in West Fork Neal Creek and Neal Creek for approximately 2.5 miles, water (42 cfs) is diverted into Neal Creek Lateral Canal by the Neal Creek irrigation diversion during irrigation season.

The project will upgrade the Central Lateral Canal to convey the 47 cfs that the Central Lateral Canal now conveys plus the 42 cfs that the Eastside Lateral conveys to the West Fork Neal Creek. The existing canal will be piped and the pipe extended to Neal Creek Lateral near Swyers Road. A new pipeline that extends from Swyers Road will serve the flows for the properties along the Neal Creek Lateral.

Diversion of irrigation water to the West Fork Neal Creek will be eliminated. Consequently, the diversion structure on Neal Creek and the obsolete fish screen in the Neal Creek Lateral will be removed. Spill surges that necessitate spilling of water will be minimized by project operations and construction of a spill overflow structure that would be constructed at the beginning of the Highline Lateral. The spill structure will minimize excess flows to the Neal Creek Lateral Canal and will direct some water surges to Odell Creek via the Dukes Valley Highline Lateral. The practice of "spilling" water (0 to 5 cfs) to Neal Creek at the terminus of the existing Central Lateral Canal for the purposes of level control would be discontinued.

The Upper Phase of the project was partially constructed in the late Fall of 2003. The project schedule anticipates that the remainder of the Upper Phase and some portion of the Middle Phase will be constructed beginning in October or November 2004, and continuing as long as weather allows. The Middle Phase will be completed and the Lower Phase, including the stream crossing, constructed in the fall of 2005 and perhaps continuing into 2006.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Alexis Vaivoda of CTWSRO, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are present in the vicinity of the project. Species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that are potentially present include Bald eagle and bull trout. It was determined that the proposed project would have no effect on these two species, so no further consultation was necessary. Species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries that are potentially present include Lower Columbia River steelhead and Lower Columbia River Chinook. A biological assessment and Essential Fish Habitat assessment was prepared for consultation with NOAA Fisheries under Section 7 of the ESA. On July 16, 2003, NOAA Fisheries provided a Biological Opinion with Incidental Take Permit and terms and conditions that will

address potential impacts to listed species. This Biological Opinion concluded formal ESA Section 7 consultation between the federal agencies.

During the summer of 2003, BPA was in consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the CTWSRO (cultural resources program) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The consultation at that time was for portions of the Upper Phase of the proposed project that were scheduled to be completed before winter weather would make fieldwork impractical. BPA continued to consult on certain aspects of the existing irrigation ditch with the SHPO and tribe into October, 2003, when it was determined that no federal funds were being used for that portion of the project.

BPA continued consultation on the Middle and Lower phases of the project, completing fieldwork during July 2004. The results of the surveys were submitted in a report in August, and on September 8, 2004, the SHPO responded by concurring with the determination that the proposed project would have no adverse affect on any known cultural resources. Although no further surveys are required, as per the NHPA, if during construction any cultural materials are encountered, all activities should cease and an archaeologist contacted. The SHPO's letter concluded NHPA Section 106 consultation between the federal and state agencies.

No environmental land audit was required for the proposed project. However, a preliminary site visit was conducted by BPA environmental staff, and based on the site visit some soil testing near a known underground storage tank was recommended by BPA's Pollution Prevention and Abatement group. The soil testing showed no evidence of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, so no construction limitations were set. However, as a precaution, the route of the proposed pipeline was realigned in order to provide a wide buffer around the tank.

Permits necessary for the proposed project include state wetland removal-fill permit from Oregon Division of State Lands and a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project proponent has also been responsible for securing other state and local building and construction permits, such as a 1200C Erosion Control Permit from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. The Oregon Division of State Lands provided a letter permit for purposes of the state Removal-Fill law on August 15, 2003. That permit is valid for a period of five years. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will issue a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit. However, the Corps waits to issue its permit until after BPA has documented successful completion of ESA Section 7 and NHPA Section 106 in this Supplement Analysis. Once this Supplement Analysis is issued and the documentation provided to the Corps, it will continue to process the permit application. Implementation of portions of the project which involve fill into waters of the United States (specifically, the Neal Creek stream crossing) are contingent on receipt of the Section 404 permit from the Corps. That work is not expected to take place until fall or Winter 2005.

BPA engages in public involvement regarding its activities in the Hood River Valley with the cooperation and assistance of the Hood River Watershed Group, through its regular meetings in the Hood River area. The meetings are announced via the group's mailing list, which has a circulation of approximately 120 local landowners, entities, and public officials. The meetings are also advertised in the local newspaper. The proposed project was discussed at several of the regular meetings, is a high priority action identified in the Watershed Action Plan that the group created, and has been the subject of special mailings. Interested parties have discussed the project directly with EFID and CTWSRO.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any

substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Rick Yarde 9-13-04
Richard Yarde
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney DATE: *9-13-04*
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist
NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion
Cultural Resources Report with Cover Letter
Letter from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
Oregon Division of State Lands Letter Permit

cc: (w/ attachments)
Ms. Alexis Vaivoda, CTWSRO
Ms. Holly Coccoli, Hood River Watershed Group
Mr. John Buckley, EFID
Mr. Gary Asbridge, USDA Forest Service